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TO HONOR THE LIFE OF FDNY FIREFIGHTER WILLIAM TOLLEY

Ms. MENG: I rise today along with the support of my colleague, Congressman Suozzi, to honor the life, service, and bravery of New York City firefighter William Tolley, who was killed in the line of duty on April 20, 2017.

Congressman Suozzi and I are saddened that New York has lost such a beloved hero. William Tolley was a courageous firefighter with Ladder Company 135 in Glendale, Queens and a respected community member on Long Island. Thousands attended his funeral at St. Martin of Tours Church in Bethpage, Long Island, and many Long Island residents decorated their streets with red ribbons in remembrance. William's memory was also honored in Queens as the flag at the firehouse of Engine Company 286/Ladder Company 135 was flown at half-mast on the evening of his death. In addition, many Queens residents paid their respects with a makeshift memorial outside the firehouse on Myrtle Avenue. We believe that William's dedication to protecting Queens citizens from harm

and his service to the Queens community will never be forgotten.

As a heroic New York City Fire Department (FDNY) veteran for fourteen years, William not only risked his life in the line of duty for his profession, but he also volunteered at the Bethpage Fire Department on Long Island. Congressman Suozzi and I commend William's unwavering selflessness that led him to dedicate both his career and free time to protecting fellow community members.

William was not only a hero in the FDNY, but he was a beloved father, husband, brother, friend, and neighbor. Outside of the uniform, William enjoyed being the drummer in a heavy metal band and being an active presence in his daughter's school. William is survived by his wife, Marie, and his 8-year old daughter, Isabella.

Congressman Suozzi and I offer our deepest condolences to William's family, friends, and the FDNY during this difficult time.